

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4205,
FLOYD D. SPENCE NATIONAL DE-
FENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I rise in strong support of the National Defense Authorization Conference Report H.R. 4205.

I would like to thank Mr. SPENCE, Mr. SKELTON, Subcommittee Chairs, Ranking Members, and of course Committee Staff for all the hard work that they put into reconciling the Defense Authorization Bill.

This year's Authorization Bill makes great strides toward improving Modernization, Quality of Life, and Military Readiness.

First, Military Health Care is getting on the right track, but we still have a lot of work to do to improve service to active duty and retired service members.

Second, Recruiting and Retention are showing signs of improvement, but will be a constant challenge during strong economies and changing demographics.

Although this committee has made significant improvements in quality of life benefits, I'm concerned that the junior ranks do not understand what these improvements mean to them.

According to a DoD survey of service members, basic pay is the number one reason to stay or leave the military.

But do they understand the value of their benefits, beyond take home pay, when they make their decision to leave?

I have introduced legislation, H.R. 4388, which provides service members information on their benefits, to including VA benefits, the value of those benefits, and how their benefits compare to civilian counterparts.

Given this information, I hope more may understand the grass is not necessarily greener on the other side and opt to make a career out of military service.

I thank the Committee for acknowledging the merits of this legislation by including reporting language in this bill requiring the Department of Defense to report on what the Department is doing in educating service members on the value of their benefits.

Third, I would like to commend the Committee on their work in improving R&D accounts, specifically Science and Technology.

R&D is the future of this Nation's defense. We should not shortchange our future to fund present day shortfalls. R&D is critical in maintaining the technological edge to combat the growing and changing threats to our Nation's security.

Finally, I would like to commend the Committee for incorporating H.R. 3396 in the Defense Authorization Bill and look at California as a potential production site for the Joint Strike Fighter.

An independent study found that building the JSF at the Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, California could save upwards of \$2 billion over the life of the project.

These savings are based on state and local economic incentives, such as tax credits, and inherent capabilities, such as the existing 1.2

million square foot B-2 production facility, highly trained aerospace work force, and close proximity to test facilities.

If we are asking taxpayers to support the best manned, equipped, and trained fighting force in the world, we must ensure it's the most cost effective fighting force in the world.

In closing, I commend all the Committee Chairs, Ranking Members and Staff for working with their Senate counterparts to produce a bipartisan bill that looks out for those who serve and preserve's our role as the World's premier fighting force.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO MIRIAM GOBSTOOB
CANTER

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, October 12, 2000 the name of the Louis Wirth Experimental School in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood will be changed to honor one of its founders: Miriam Gobstobob Canter.

Almost one year after Miriam died, it will be a fitting tribute to the life of a most remarkable woman who devoted much of her life to public education.

Miriam Gobstobob was born in 1923 in Boston, Massachusetts. She attended Boston University and joined the Women's Air Corps in 1944. She devoted herself to the war effort and was a part of the successful effort to integrate her company.

After the war, and her honorable discharge, she joined the first all-women's Jewish War Veteran's Post. She became a commander of that post and later in life commander of the Chicago Jewish War Veteran's Post, the only woman to command two such posts.

In 1956 she married David S. Canter and moved to Chicago where she dived into work, family and community activism.

Their children, Marc, Evan and Anna drew Miriam into a lifetime commitment to education including President of the Kenwood-Ellis Co-operative Nursery School, President of the Shoesmith School PTA, President of Wirth School PTA, President of Kenwood High School PTA, President of Metro High School PTA, Community Representative of Wirth Local School Council.

She was recognized with awards including the Distinguished Service Award for 25 years of service to public education at Wirth School and the Achievement Award for 10 years Service for Local School Council participation.

There were many other facets to Miriam's love of community and country.

She worked for over 20 years at Michael Reese Hospital, was a founding board member of the Michael Reese Health Plan and the Women's Health Initiative. She was active in protecting the rights and interests of hospital workers.

Miriam made her home a center for activism and was fiercely active in the struggle for civil rights, banning nuclear weapons and in opposition to the war in Vietnam. From freedom marches and peace meetings to fund-raising events and making sandwiches no job was too big or too small for Miriam.

She was awarded (posthumously) the Unsung Heroine Award by the Cook County Women's Commission.

Miriam's home was a joyous place to visit. She was a hostess par excellence, and, according to at least one eye witness was a key player in the greatest little floating mah jongg game in Chicago.

Miriam is survived by her husband, three children, six grandchildren and uncounted friends, neighbors and coworkers. She will be remembered not only because her name is affixed to a public middle school, but because her name in indelibly engraved in the hearts of all those who knew her.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, 2000, I was on an airplane returning from my district and missed the following votes: H.R. 208, to amend Title 5, U.S. Code, to allow for the contribution of certain rollover distributions to accounts in the Thrift Savings Plan; H.R. 762, the Lupus Research and Care Amendments; and S. 2438, the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three of these votes (#519, #520 and #521).

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. DALE
STRAYHORN, PRINCIPAL OF RO-
CHELLE MIDDLE SCHOOL,
LENOIR COUNTY, NORTH CARO-
LINA

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, for almost two decades, Mrs. Dale Strayhorn has quietly and effectively touched the lives of hundreds of young people. As a teacher, school administrator and principal, she has helped our communities meet the challenge of child-raising.

She has now brought her considerable energy and expertise to Rochelle Middle School in Lenoir County, North Carolina, where she currently serves as principal. Since arriving at Rochelle, she has made every student feel important and has made every parent feel that the education of their child is being taken very seriously.

Dale Strayhorn is an educator, a mentor, an advisor, an advocate, a counselor, a visionary. She cares. She dares to be different, and she has made a difference. But, her path to excellence has not been easy. Like all who teach well, she first had to learn. One of eight children, she was instructed by her father to "get a job or go to college." She did both. She attended North Carolina Central University in Durham, and she took on the tough task of raising her daughter Gwen, beginning in her Sophomore year.

Over the years, Mrs. Strayhorn has taught elementary school, taught military-dependent children and taught alternative school children,